

JESÚS MATHEUS THE IDEOGRAM OF PLACE

October 2014 – January 2015

Opening reception: October 9, 2014, 6-8 pm

For Jesús Matheus' first solo New York show, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd. invited art historian and curator Juan Ledezma to work closely with Matheus in developing the exhibition, *The Ideogram of Place*. Adopting the concept of the ideogram – a sign that represents an idea without explicitly depicting it – the artist and curator assembled a selection of paintings, works on paper and sculptures that reference the architecture of the gallery space through their composition, texture, and color. According to Ledezma, the purpose of this exhibition is “to construct the notion of another place for the perception of form – a place forged midway between the self-enclosure of the aesthetic medium and its exposure to what lies beyond the medium’s notional frame. The exhibition does not seek, therefore, to step outside either the sculptural or pictorial mediums or to divert them within an expanded field. Here the subject of expansion is the ideogram itself – the goal being to produce signs that point at both the autonomous site of abstraction and the actual site from which abstract form is perceived.”

Jesús Matheus was born in Caracas, Venezuela in 1957. He studied at the Escola de Belas Artes, Universidad Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1981) and graduated from the Centro de Enseñanza Gráfica, Caracas (1987). From 1992 to 1999 and in 2003, Matheus taught printmaking and drawing at the Instituto Universitario de Estudios Superiores de Artes Plásticas Armando Reverón, now Universidad Nacional Experimental de las Artes (Caracas). During his time in Brazil and Venezuela, Matheus became interested in serial structures and pre-Columbian imagery and was greatly influenced by Joaquín Torres-García and his concept of *Universalismo Constructivo*. These sources provided the conceptual ground for Matheus' oeuvre, and continue to inspire his practice.

Matheus has exhibited extensively in South America and internationally. His work is part of several public and private collections, including the Cisneros Foundation and the Carlos Cruz-Diez Museum of Illustration and Design in Venezuela, the Wilfredo Lam Center in Cuba, and the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop in New York. The artist currently lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

An exhibition catalog titled *Jesús Matheus. Form. Sign. Place.*, including an illustrated chronology and texts by Juan Ledezma and Cecilia de Torres is available.

For more information please contact the gallery via email: mail@ceciliadetorres.com or call 212-431-5869